

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner of this application, together with the cited references, has been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claims 1, 5-6, and 10 have been amended to define more clearly the patentable invention applicants believe is disclosed herein. Claims 2-4, and 7-9 are unchanged by the present amendment paper. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has objected to the use of the phrase "such as." In view of the Examiner's comments, the phrase "such as" has been replaced by the term "including." In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are now in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner now withdraw this reject of claims 1, 5, 6, and 10.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment does not introduce new issues, and thus should be considered and entered into the present application. In this regard, claims have been amended herein to clarify the relationship between the browsed information and the theme to which browsed information relates. It is respectfully submitted that this relationship was sufficiently defined in the claims prior to the present amendment. In particular, the present invention has been directed to "A WWW server on the Internet enabling browsing and/or evaluation of information provided in relation to a proposed theme," and it has been previously claimed that the server accept "a theme for collecting information."

The Examiner has withdrawn the previous prior art rejection, and now rejects claims 1-10 as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,811 to Ginn et al. (hereinafter "Ginn et al.") and the publication entitled "Slashdot FAQ on Comments and Moderation" from June 2000 (hereinafter referred to as "Slashdot"). It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the applicant's invention as set forth in the present claims.

As discussed in the Remarks/Arguments of the previous Response, the present invention is associated with the following three kinds of users:

- (A) a "proposer" of a theme;
- (B) a "provider" of information related to the theme; and
- (C) a "browser (evaluator)" of the information related to the theme.

Ginn et al. discloses a BBS system that gives points to a user in accordance with the ratings of the user's information. As noted by the Examiner, Ginn et al. teaches that the points are to be awarded to the user who contributed an information to an information community. Accordingly, points are to be awarded to the "provider" (B) of the information.

In contrast to Ginn et al., the claimed invention awards the points to the "proposer" (A) of the theme to which the browsed information relates. See item (7) of independent claims 1 and 5 and step (G) of independent claims 6 and 10. Points are also to be awarded to the "provider" (B) of the information in the present invention. In this way, not only the "provider" (B) of information would be motivated to submit useful information, but also the "proposer" (A) would be motivated to submit the theme to collect the useful information.

As indicated above, the claims of the present application have been amended herein to clarify the relationship between the browsed information and the theme to which browsed information relates. This relationship was also defined in the claims prior to the present amendment. As noted above, the present invention has been directed to "A WWW server on the Internet enabling browsing and/or evaluation of information provided in relation to a proposed theme," and it has been previously claimed that the server accept "a theme for collecting information."

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Ginn et al. fails to teach or suggest the aspect of the claimed invention directed to the relationship between the browsed information and the theme to which browsed information relates. Accordingly, the Examiner relies upon the Slashdot reference for this aspect of the claimed invention. However, the Slashdot reference merely teaches that karma (which corresponds to "points") is to be awarded to the user who provided a story (which corresponds to "theme"). Thus, the Slashdot reference is describing the awarding of points to the "proposer" (A) when the "proposer" (A) submits a theme in item (2)/step (G) of the independent claims of the present application.

The Slashdot reference also discloses that points are to be awarded to the user according to "metamoderation." However, Metamoderation, is a scheme to rate the rating. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the definition of "Metamoderation" recited in the section of the Slashdot FAQ of June 2000, submitted herewith. This document was obtained from the following URL: <http://web.archive.org/web/20000815061051/slashdot.org/faq/metamod.shtml>. Accordingly, the Slashdot reference discloses that points are to be awarded to the "evaluator" (C) of the information by evaluating the user's evaluation.

Thus, combining the BBS system of Ginn et al. with Slashdot's scheme of karma and metamoderation merely provides a way to award points to: (1) the "proposer" (A) when the theme is proposed, (2) the "provider" (B) when the information is evaluated, and (3) the "evaluator" (C) when the evaluation is evaluated. Ginn et al. and the Slashdot reference both fail to teach or suggest that when the information that is provided by "provider" (B) is browsed, points are to be awarded to the "proposer" (A) who proposed the theme to which the browsed information relates.

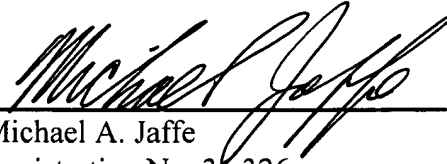
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 10, and the claims that depend therefrom (i.e., claims 2-4, and 7-9), are patentable over the cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters that need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. II7448US.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 16, 2005

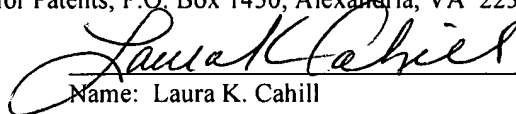

Michael A. Jaffe
Registration No. 36,326

Kusner & Jaffe
Highland Place – Suite 310
6151 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
(440) 684-1090 (phone)
(440) 684-1095 (fax)

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Date: November 16, 2005


Name: Laura K. Cahill